



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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MARCH 8, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SECOND BROTHER PLEADS GUILTY TO NARCOTICS VIOLATION

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Mexican national pleaded guilty in federal court today to his role in a cocaine conspiracy, which also involved his brother.

Carlos Leyva-Acosta, 27, a citizen of Mexico, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

By pleading guilty, **Leyva-Acosta** admitted that he conspired with others to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine between Oct. 28, 2003, and Nov. 4, 2003. He also admitted to possessing with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine on Nov. 3, 2003.

Leyva-Acosta is the second co-defendant to plead guilty in this case.

On Feb. 5, 2004, **Carlos Leyva-Acosta's** brother **Sergio Leyva-Acosta**, 28, also of Mexico, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine between Oct. 28, 2003, and Nov. 4, 2003. Additionally, **Sergio Leyva-Acosta** pleaded guilty to illegally re-entering the United States on Nov. 3, 2003, after having been previously deported.

Both co-defendants were originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 19, 2003, in Kansas City.

Under federal law, Graves explained, the co-defendants could be subject to maximum sentences of up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus fines up to \$2 million. Their sentences will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Sentencing hearings will be scheduled after the completion of presentence investigations by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Rhoades. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow